



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

**FULL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009
3:30 – 5:30 PM
COMMISSION BOARDROOM**

MINUTES

Commissioners

Anne Ashmore-Hudson, Chair
Rhona Wolfe Freidman
Judith Terra – Via phone
Lou Hill Davidson
Rogelio Maxwell
Tendani Mpulubusi
Rebecca Fishman – Via phone

Staff

Gloria Nauden, Executive Director
Dolores Kendrick, Poet Laureate
Catherine Cleary, Dir. Grants & Leg. Affairs
Rachel Dickerson, Public Art Manager
Moshe Adams, Legislative & Grants Manager
Gurmeet Scoggins, Agency Financial Officer
Shyree Mezick, Community Outreach Specialist

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36

II. Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked the Commission to review the minutes from the executive committee meeting on June 15, 2009.

The meeting achieved quorum at 6:05 PM. Following discussion, it was moved by the Chair and seconded by Commissioner Friedman that the Commission approve the minutes as presented.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

III. Chair's Report

The Chair mentioned the budget cuts that non-profits are making and taking throughout the District, providing copies of an article in the *Washington Post* about the elimination of passthroughs in the District's budget. Commissioner Terra asked if the Commission had any voice within the government about these cuts and it was noted that a public hearing was scheduled for Friday, June 24.

The Chair then announced the new Executive Committee roster:

Chair—Anne Ashmore-Hudson
Vice Chair—Rhona Wolfe Friedman
Secretary—Judith Terra
Treasurer—Marvin Bowser
Parliamentarian—Rebecca Fishman
At-Large—Rogelio Maxwell
At-Large—Lavinia Wohlfarth

A vote was postponed until a quorum was achieved later in the meeting.

IV. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director noted the huge success of the Hip Hop theatre Festival as a huge success, particularly its targeting of local artists and driving up the number of audience members.

She also announced that Chinatown Archway will have a re-dedication ceremony on September 21, 2009.

V. Poet Laureate's Report

The Poet Laureate is working on an event at the Navy Memorial to commemorate her tenth anniversary in the position and thanked the Executive Director for her support. A series of people will be toasting the Poet Laureate during the event on September 22 and three poets will read. The Poet Laureate will send invitations to many current and former commissioners.

Commissioner Friedman requested that the commissioners receive emails about the Poet Laureate's upcoming events.

The Poet Laureate also announced that the translation of one of her poems into Mandarin will be published in *America* magazine.

VI. Executive Committee Member Announcements

The Chair re-stated the slate of Executive Committee nominations.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Davidson that the slate be approved as presented.

*Motion Carried *Unanimous

VII. FY 2010 Budget Update

The Executive Director introduced the budget as it was resubmitted to Council by the Mayor. The document presented a translation of the Mayor's proposed budget and the Agency's proposed changes. She noted that DCCAH is a last stop for many organizations that are in need of funding and highlighted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that the agency received from the National Endowment for the arts as a means for the agency to have a deeper impact. She went on to define terms and line items for the commissioners, including the grant programs with rolling deadlines.

The Executive Director pointed out several changes in programs and their budgets and mentioned a discussion about possibly reducing the maximum award available through certain grant programs. By dropping the cap more organizations would receive funding. The Chair suggested \$25 – 28K for GIA. Commissioner Maxwell concurred but no motion was made. The East of the River grant was discussed at length. The Executive Director mentioned that the program coordinator asked for a slight increase. Commissioner Mpulubusi suggested increasing the funding but was not able to do so yet without taking it from someplace else on the budget.

The Vice Chair expressed concern about the amount paid to the UPSTART consultants and the Chair recommended changing the flat fee paid to the consultants.

The Executive Director mentioned applicants with outstanding final reports and the effect this will have on FY 2010 applicants. The Chair then commented that, in the interest of time, the Commission members should read this spreadsheet themselves and come back to the staff with questions.

The Chair mentioned that the Mayor prefers that the agency hold a press conference rather than the Mayor's Arts Awards (MAA). The Chair commented that this is a major event for the agency, but she would like to honor the Mayor's wishes. She recommended using the funds from the event to give to special one-time grants to those who would receive the MAA and having a panel review these worthy honorees. The Chair mentioned having a presentation or press conference with a production component. Gurmeet Scoggins, the Agency Financial Officer, suggested the name "Excellence in the Arts Awards" and this was adopted. The Chair then suggested using the Millennium Stage as the venue and the Executive Director emphasized keeping the budget in line with the budget for a Mayoral press conference.

The Executive Director mentioned nine federal agencies that have arts activities as lines in their budgets. The Chair asked the Executive Director to send that listing to the commissioners. The Vice Chair and The Chair asked if the agency would be able to receive funding from federal sources. Ms. Scoggins explained that it is actually possible. The Vice Chair suggested that this become a topic for the Chair to bring to the Commission meeting in September and requested that staff provide the deadlines for these possible funding sources.

The Vice Chair commented that the Humanities Council's funding may be able to be used somewhere else in the budget (EOR, in particular). The Executive Director explained that the Humanities Council cannot be adjusted at this point but this will be finalized along with the rest of the budget. The Chair clarified this matter.

The Chair asked about the "DMPED" line item and the Director of Grants and Legislative Affairs responded that those dollars represent intra-District funds. These funds are transferred from one Agency to another.

VIII. Summer Youth Employment Program

Rachel Dickerson, Public Art Manager, introduced Albus Cavus, the artistic collective collaborating with the agency on the Summer Youth Employment Program mural project. Shyree Mezick, Community Outreach Specialist, gave a quick overview of the program. The Chair asked about the number of students involved. Peter Krsko of Albus Cavus stated that 45 students from DCCAH and Beacon House worked on the mural. Ms. Mezick mentioned the organizations hosting the children and providing them with employment opportunities over the summer. She stated that the participants' work varies from organization to organization.

Commissioner Mpulubusi asked about students and wards that were not represented as part of the SYEP (Wards 3, 4 and 8). The Executive Director emphasized that Ms. Mezick was very diligent in reaching out to organizations and students across the District.

Mr. Krsko introduced the program and the objectives and then introduced Daniel "Pose 2" Hopkins and Jason "Chor Boogie" Hailey, his collaborators. The work plan for the mural, entitled "From Edgewood to the Edge of the World," was described in detail with specific focus on end goals and student projects. Mr. Krsko also noted that there was room for more students to participate in the mural project.

IX. Semi-Annual Conflict of Interest Declarations

Conflict of interest forms were distributed to the commissioners, in compliance with the policy that commissioners submit, bi-annually, their conflicts of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.